

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete supplemental response to the Office Action dated February 7, 2007, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on May 7, 2007. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Claims 1-42 are pending in the application. Claims 43-76 remain pending following entry of this response. Claims 1-42 have been cancelled. Claims 43-76 have been added. Applicants submit that the amendments do not introduce new matter.

Interview Summary

On May 23, 25, and 29, 2007, telephonic interviews were held between Gero G. McClellan, attorney of record, Don O'Brien, and Jason Mitchell the Examiner of record. The parties discussed the cited references including U.S. Patent No. 6,077,312 (*Bates*). Claims 1-42 were discussed. The parties also discussed new claims 43-76, presented herein. During the interview, agreement was reached on language in the new claims. Specifically, the Examiner performed an updated search and concluded that the new claims appeared to overcome the art of record as well as any new art uncovered by the updated search.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted, and
S-signed pursuant to 37 CFR 1.4,

/Gero G. McClellan, Reg. No. 44,227/

Gero G. McClellan
Registration No. 44,227
PATTERSON & SHERIDAN, L.L.P.
3040 Post Oak Blvd. Suite 1500
Houston, TX 77056
Telephone: (713) 623-4844
Facsimile: (713) 623-4846
Attorney for Applicants